

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03
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R 011530Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4604
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL NAPLES
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL PALERMO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14091

USOECN AND USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, IT, PINT
SUBJ: ITALIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION REQUESTS VISIT TO CZECHOSLO-
VAKIA TO DETERMINE VALIDITY HUMAN AND LABOR RIGHTS COMPLAINTS

REF: (A) ROME 13414, (B) ROME 14089

BEGIN SUMMARY. AS THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOVIET INVASION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA APPROACHES, THE ITALIAN PRO-VISIONALS TRADE UNION FEDERATION CCU, CONSISTING OF THE CISL (DC-ORIENTED), UIL (SOCIALIST, SOCIAL DEMOCRAT, REPUBLICAN) AND THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGIL, MOVED AGAIN ON THE ISSUE OF THE RIGHTS OF DISSIDENTS IN EASTERN EUROPE (SEE REFTELS). IN ITS LATEST MOVE, THE CCU APPROVED A LETTER TO THE CZECHOSLOVAK LABOR ORGANIZATION REQUESTING AGREEMENT FOR AN ITALIAN TRADE UNION DELEGATION TO VISIT CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND TO INVESTIGATE COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE VIOLATION OF ILA CONVENTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. SUPPLEMENTING THE ACTION OF THE CCU IN SUSPENDING RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET AUCCTU (SEE REFTELS), THE CCU HAS ALSO REQUESTED THE CZECHOSLOVAKIAN LABOR ORGANIZATION TO RECEIVE AN ITALIAN TRADE UNION DELEGATION TO OVSERVE HUMAN AND LABOR RIGHTS PRACTICES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

2. THIS LETTER SAID: "INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS AND GROUPS OF CITIZENS FROM YOUR REPUBLIC, RECURRING PRESS REPORTS, AND A COMPLAINT PENDING IN THE ILO INFORM US THAT WORKERS AND CITIZENS SEEM TO BE AFFECTED BY DISMISSALS, DISCRIMINATION, AND OTHER FORMS OF RETALIATION AS RESULT OF THEIR LABOR AND POLITICAL VIEWS OR AS A RESULT OF THEIR ACTIONS DURING THE EVENTS YOU KNOW VERY WELL, WHICH HAPPENED TEN YEARS
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AGO OR IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS. WE ARE VERY INTERESTED TO DETERMINE ON THE SPOT AND DIRECTLY IF THESE REPORTS ARE TRUE AND WHAT FORMS OF ASSISTAND AND DEFENSE HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY YOUR ORGANIZATION TO HELP THESE WORKERS. THEREFORE, WE REQUEST YOU TO RECEIVE WITH GOOD WILL A DELEGATION REPRESENTING OUR FEDERATION AND TO ENABLE IT TO ESTABLISH ALL THE NECESSARY LEGITIMATE AND OFFICIAL CONTACTS WITH YOU, WITH GOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITIES DEALING WITH THE SLAVE LABOR QUESTION, AND WITH INTERESTED INDIVIDUAL CITIZENS OR GROUPS OF CITIZENS. WE TRUST THAT THIS REQUEST WILL BE ACCEPTED."

3. THE UIL IS PLANNING A "CELEBRATION OF SOLIDARITY" WITH THE DISSIDENTS IN CZECHOSLOVADIA. ACCORDING TO UIL SOURCES, THIS EVENT WOULD INCLUDE SEMINARS, PARTICIPATION OF SINGERS, DANCERS AND OTHER EVENTS TO ATTRACT PUBLIC ATTENTION. THE INCOME FROM THIS EVENT WOULD BE USED TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE OF CZECH AND SOVIET DISSIDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. UIL SOURCES CLAIM THAT PRELIMINARY CONTACTS WITH THE COMMUNIST-DOMINATED CGIL INDICATE THAT THE CGIL WOULD PREFER TO PLAY DOWN THIS EVENT BY SIMPLY HOLDING A SEMINAR WHICH WOULD CREATE LITTLE PUBLIC REACTION. THE UIL WILL GO IT ALONE IF

THE CGIL AND CISL DO NOT SUPPORT THIS IDEA, UIL SOURCES SAID.

4. COMMENT: THE UIL AND ITS LEADER GIORGIO BENVENUTO (SOCIALIST) SUPPORTED ACTIVELY BY UIL INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SECRETARY LINO RAVECCA (SOCIAL DEMOCRAT) APPEAR TO BE PRESSING THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE MORE NOW THAN IN THE PAST. THIS IS IN THEIR POLITICAL INTEREST SINCE THIS IS ONE OF THE FEW ISSUES ON THE ITALIAN SCENE WHERE THE PCI AND THE CGIL ARE ON THE DEFENSIVE. UIL LEADERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE SYMPATHETIC TO THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS FEEL THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN THE SOVIET UNION IS THE "ACHILLES HEEL" OF THE CGIL IN ITALY AND THAT UIL WILL GAIN MORE WORKER SUPPORT BY FORCING THE CGIL
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TO SUPPORT ACTIVELY PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN EASTERN EUROPE. MANY OF THE LABOR LEADERS IN UIL ALSO ARE INFLUENCED ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND LABOR DEVELOPMENTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY SUCH WELL-KNOWN CZECH REFUGEES AS JIRI PELIKAN WHO ARE LIVING IN ITALY. HOLMES

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